

HATE CRIME
ROMY

Burned—as

7-011 Jan 4 '66

no Romany

inheritor

THE caravan of Mrs. Drusilla Heron, 87-year-old fortune teller and palmist, well-known in Bundoran for many years, were burned to a cinder on Tuesday night—the day after her funeral, in accordance with Romany tradition. She was the last of her line of true Romany stock.

Rev. J. P. Campbell, Methodist Minister, Brookeborough, conducted an open air service on Tuesday and the interment took place in Dundonald Cemetery, Belfast.

With her husband Oscar, she came from England to Ireland in 1912. Her husband bought horses for British and Continental armies and when that trade declined they entered the entertainment world. When he died a few years ago in Maguiresbridge, Fermanagh, his caravan was burned.

Of Mrs. Heron's 15 children, nine of whom are alive, none married into Romany families and therefore were not entitled to inherit the family possessions. Her eldest son, Douglas, who lives in Dungannon made arrangement for the burning of the caravan, bought 14 years ago for £800.

Everything belonging to Mrs. Heron was left in the caravan. Her brooches, studded with rubies, and diamonds, her £5 gold piece and gold sovereign earrings, Waterford glass and antique china pieces were smashed. Petrol was poured over the bed linen and cupboards and the thing set alight.

Only one personal item was not destroyed. This was Mrs. Heron's gold wedding ring which she had given to her daughter, Lily, wife of Mr. Robert McCubbin, of Andrew Terrace, Derrygonnelly.